GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:290
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
QUALITY OF IMPORTED EDIBLE OIL
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Concernover spurt in edible oil imports` as reported in `The Hindu` dated July 7, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the quality of imported edible oil was tested;

(c) if so, the results thereof;

(d) whether the Government have made imports of edible oils without keeping in mind the availability of edible oils in the domestic market; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d) & (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d) & (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 290 FOR ANSWI THE LOK SABHA ON 11-8-2000.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): In terms of the provisions of PFA Act and Rules thereunder as also the instructions issued by the Health Ministry, the import of edible oil is required to be tested for ascertaining conformity to the standards of quality as laid down under PFA Act and Rules thereunder before the imported oil is cleared and allowed to enter into the country.

(d) & (e): No Sir. As far as the import of edible oil on Government account is concerned, such imports have been made keeping in view the need to supply oil at reasonable prices to the card holders through the PDS. In view of the comfortable price and availability situation in the country, Government have restricted such imports to meet only the committed requirements indicated by the State Governments.